THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 3. SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—

Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, April 11th, 3 p.m.—Hyde Park—Mr. E. Duval. Chair: Mrs. Bouvier.

Monday, April 12th, 8 p.m.—Poplar, Cotton Street—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Powerscroft Rd.—Mr. Franklin.
8 p.m.—"Peacock"—Miss Feek. Chair: Miss Manicom.

Tuesday, April 13th, 2.30 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane, N.E.—Miss P. Lynch. Chair: Miss Manicom.
3 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Mrs. Bouvier Chair: Miss Beamish.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Salmon Lane—Mrs. Walker. Chair: Miss Beamish.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Drake and others.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Miss Barry.

Wednesday, April 14th, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mr. Franklin.
8 p.m.—Ford Road—Mrs. Walker.

Thursday, April 15th, 8 p.m.—124 Barking Road.—Chair: Mrs. Parsons.
8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Mrs. Walker. Chair: Miss Manicom.

Friday, April 16th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Thompson. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Mackinlay.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Mrs. Drake.
10 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Club.
8 p.m.—Plaistow, "The Raglan"—Miss Holmes. Chair: Mr. J. C. Rowe.

Sunday, April 18th, at 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Sennett. Chair: Miss Beamish.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall—Mrs. Walker, Mr. E. Duval.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Miss Georgina Brackenbury and others. Chair: Mrs. Drake.

Monday, April 19th, at 8 p.m.—Canning Town—E.L.F.S. GENERAL MEETING. Members be sure to keep this date free.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays.
Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Fridays 7 to 10.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town ; also gifts of :

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT, GLAXO AND VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor's attendances and baby weighing
400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 14 Butcher's Rd., Canning Town,

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
20 Railway Street, Poplar.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley.

Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.)
Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices ?

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

WE DEMAND EQUAL PAY for EQUAL WORK.

WHAT DOES THE GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT WITH LABOUR MEAN ?

In reply to Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's enquiry as to whether the Treasury agreement between the Board of Trade and Labour Representatives will secure that women shall receive equal pay for equal work with the men, whom they may replace, the following reply has been received from Mr. Lloyd George :—

March 26th, 1915.

Dear Miss Pankhurst,—The words which you quote would guarantee that women undertaking the work of men would get the same piece rates as men were receiving before the date of this agreement. That of course means that if the women turn out the same quantity of work as men employed on the same job, they will receive exactly the same pay.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) D. LLOYD GEORGE.

A GROUP OF BOW CHILDREN.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has replied as follows :—

26th March, 1915.

The Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George,
Treasury Chambers,
Whitehall, S.W.

Dear Mr. Lloyd George,—Many thanks for your letter with its valuable explanation that women are to receive the "same piecework rates as men were receiving before the date of this agreement." I conclude that the women will also receive any war bonus and increase of wages as a result of the War, which would have been paid had men been employed. It is important to know also whether the same time rates are to apply in the case of women as those which were paid to men, because if this were not the case, employers might merely engage women to work on time rates to avoid paying the standard rates.

I hope that you will be able to give me a definite answer on this point, as you will understand how anxious women are in regard to the matter.

Faithfully yours,
(Signed) E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

The following letter has been received from the War Office by the Hon. Secretary of the E.L.F.S.

War Office,
London, S.W.
26th March, 1915.

Madam,—With reference to your letter dated 22nd March, I am directed to inform you that the allowances issued by the War Office in respect of the wives and other dependents of soldiers will not be reduced by the recipient's registration for War Work and are given employment under the Board of Trade scheme.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) C. A. WOODWARD.
For the Assistant Financial Secretary.

Mr. H. Elvin, General Secretary of the National Union of Clerks, says: "We have no objection to women clerks as such ; we realise that, owing to economic necessity, it is just as necessary for thousands of them to work for their own living and for the support of others as it is for male clerks. What we have always contended against has been the indifferent attitude which the average woman clerk has taken up towards the baneful effect her unfair competition has had upon the condition of the male clerk. We believe that all positions should be decided upon by merit, and from our own experience, I am satisfied that there are many women clerks who are as competent as, if not superior to, many men clerks.

The remedy for the situation is for both sexes to work together for the principle of equal pay for equal work, and to endeavour to establish such a possition that it will be impossible for any person to call himself or herself a clerk until a certain standard of efficiency has been reached. I hope therefore, that women clerks will rally to the N.U.C., the only purely clerks' professional organisation embracing both men and women on equal terms."

THE SWEATING SCANDAL.

The following letter from a poor woman brassworker was quoted in the *Times* recently :—

Dear Sir,—Just a few lines begging you to look into the matter. Could you kindly see into Mr. ——. He will not pay more than 2s. 1d. for a hundred gross for drawing through soldiers' buttons and the cutting out is only 1s. 6d. I have worked there myself, but all that I can earn from Monday to Saturday was 7s. 6d., and out of that had to pay for a baby to be minded. That was 3s. 6d., so you may guess how much is left. We have to work by candle light and slave hard. It is very mean. Begging you to look into this. They stop 3d. insurance, and we do not get 2s. a week sometimes. Do look into this.

OFFICIAL GENEROSITY (?)

"Owing to the increased cost of living, the Central Committee on Women's Employment have decided that the minimum rate of pay of 3d. per hour, with the maximum weekly wage of 10s., in the women's workrooms, may be raised by not more than 10 per cent.

The maximum number of hours to be worked has been increased from 40 to 46.

TWO MEETINGS.

League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

Wednesday, April 14th, 8 p.m.

ESSEX HALL,

Wakefield Street, East Ham.

Speakers : Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY, Mrs. WALKER, Mrs. HOLT, Mrs. THOMPSON and others.

Tuesday, April 20th, 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S HALL,

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

Speakers : Mrs. DESPARD, Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST, Mr. G. LANSBURY, Mr. A. A. WATTS, Mrs. THOMPSON.

In the case of girls between 16 and 18 years of age, who receive a maintenance allowance of 1s. per day, a corresponding increase may be made by raising the rate to 1s. 3d. per day ; and the allowance of 4s. a week paid to girls between 14 and 16 may be increased to 5s.

The question of making a corresponding increase in the number of hours of work or instruction still remains in the discretion of the local committee."

The above statement is taken from Monday's *Daily Citizen*. The cost of living has increased at least 25 per cent ; the National Relief Fund is within sight of a total of five millions and the authorities have decided that the 10s. given in the workrooms—which was never a living wage—"*may* be raised by *not more than* 10 per cent" *i.e.* to 11s. One wonders who persuaded the Committee to come to a decision of such munificence!

Manchester clothing operatives are agitating for increased pay for Army work. In some Manchester factories the women are paid 1s. 3d. for machining soldiers' tunics, in others 1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d. The workers ask for an adequate flat rate. Why not, when the Government pays a good flat rate to the contractors?

Women workers in the factories of Rushden, Northamptonshire, have unanimously resolved to ask for a War bonus of 10 per cent. on their wages; we hope they will get it.

LOW WAGES AND CRIME.

William Thomas May, a grocer's assistant, was sentenced last week to a month's imprisonment for stealing a tin of tea tabloids, valued at 1s. 2d. He was a married man of 40, whose average wage, plus commission was £1 10s. 10d. a week. He pleaded that the cost of living had become so great that his wife had been obliged to pawn their bed clothing in order to keep the family. He had three children under 13, and paid 8s. a week rent. It should be remembered that a shop assistant is expected to wear much better clothes than the working man, whose wife is finding it very hard to make ends meet on 30s. a week. The guilt lies with the Government that refuses to keep the prices down, rather than with the hard-pressed shop assistant.

REGULATING THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

The Indian Government has decided to control the wheat supply and to prohibit the export of wheat from India by anyone but the Government. The leading export firms will be employed by the Government and paid by commission. The Government will take as its profit the difference between the world prices and the Indian prices, the latter being kept artificially low. If this can be done in India why not in England ?

In Germany, the making of cakes is prohibited, and flour may not be used for starching shirts, in order that there may be no scarcity of bread.

WOMEN! JOIN THE

East London Federation of the Suffragettes —

WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose 1½d, to cover membership and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name .....

Address .....

The Woman's Dreadnought.

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can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

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Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

QUESTIONS OF PEACE.

For the International Women's Peace Congress, which is to take place at the Hague on April 28th, 29th and 30th, a number of resolutions have been prepared, and these we print below. Some of these deal with vitally important matters, others, though excellent in principal, are rhetorical rather than practical.

We hope that the Congress will set itself carefully and earnestly to work out some practical detailed scheme for democratising the existing machinery for international arbitration, and also for extending its scope, and enhancing its powers.

At the present time Great Britain is represented at the Hague Court by The Right Hon. Sir Charles Fitzpatrick (Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada), The Right Hon. Earl Desart, K.C.B., and The Right Hon. Viscount Bryce, O.M. These gentlemen are hardly representative of the whole people.

The Conference should very carefully discuss the question as to how the delegates to the Hague should be appointed—whether by popular election at a general election, whether by nomination, so as to represent each of the political parties, or whether some other scheme to secure a fair representation of the various interests in the State should be devised. We women should certainly insist that the representation of each of the countries must include representatives of its women.

Is representation at the Hague to be allotted according to population, or upon what principle?

Another important point for the Conference to discuss is the means by which the decisions of the International Arbitration Court are to be made effective. Is an International Army or Police Force to be set up? Is there to be some scheme of International boycott to be used against those who refuse to obey the decisions of the Hague Court? The United States Chamber of Commerce is taking a referendum of its members on this point, the suggestion being that recalcitrant nations should be prohibited from buying, or selling, or raising money through the sale of bonds, or any other form of debt, within the territory of the other nations.

Can obedience to the decisions of the International Court be secured by the signing of treaties without any form of compulsion? As soon as there is any prospect of the decisions of the Hague Court becoming compulsorily binding, in an effective sense, the question of representation of the various nations and the various interests in the nations will be held to assume an absolutely essential importance.

The question of limitation of armaments and a general disarmament is vitally bound up with that of the powers of the International Court. If the decisions of the International Court can be binding without recourse to force, then it should be possible to dispense with national armies and navies. If the International Court is to have a police force or army of its own, it would be necessary, in order to make this central force effective, to limit the size of private armies, or to abolish them altogether.

How far the Governments of the world can be made to travel in this direction remains to be seen, but those who desire peace must strive to rid themselves of prejudices and view the question broadly and logically.

"The scope" of the International Court too is of vital moment. The first question which undoubtedly it must consider, is the securing and maintenance of peace. Is the question of the Peace that must follow this War to be referred to the Hague Court? Are the nations of the world to be called upon to enter into peace treaties, not with a few chosen nations for offence and defence against other nations, but with each and all, so that instead of allowing the world to be divided, as at present, into a number of hostile groups, we may secure a peaceful confederation of all nations?

The Peace Treaty of September, 1914, between Great Britain and the United States, provides that disputes between these two nations shall be referred to a Permanent International Commission, to be composed of five members—one British Citizen appointed by the British Government, one American Citizen appointed by the America Government, one member appointed by the British Government from any third country, and one appointed by the American Government from any third country. The fifth member shall be a Citizen of a third country chosen by common agreement between the British and American Governments. Great Britain and the United States agree not to declare war or begin hostilities until the Commission has reported; and the Commission is given a year for its deliberations.

The North Sea Agreement, which was entered into by France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland and Sweden in April, 1908, provides that where any one of these nations fears any invasion of their possessions bordering on the North Sea, the signatories to the agreement shall intercommunicate with a view to concerted action.

Cannot an agreement be entered into by all the nations, combining the best features of all other treaties, with even further improvements, be drawn up by the Woman's Congress and submitted by them to the Governments of the World?

Another important point to be considered in regard to the scope of the International Court of the Nations is whether it shall confine itself merely to the settlement of disputes, or whether it shall in time grow to be a larger International Parliament.

International competition and the lack of concerted action amongst the Parliaments of the World is one of the greatest hindrances to national reform. The prohibition of the use of dangerous phospherous in the manufacture of matches, has been secured by International agreement. The use of dangerous lead glazes will not be put an end to until a similar agreement is secured. For years it has been declared impossible to stamp out even the grossest forms of sweating in Britain, on the plea that sweated goods can be imported with impunity from abroad. An International Wages Board would be of infinitely greater value in preventing sweating than any tariff wall. The White Slave traffic is another of the many matters with which an International Parliament might deal.

But the Women's International Congress will have to discuss an even more difficult problem than any of these that we have cited. It must discover by what means best to secure that its decisions shall be brought effectively before the peoples and the Governments of the World, and afterwards carried out.

Will the conference appoint a delegation to visit the Rulers of each of the Nations now at War? And if the Conference do so, will the delegation be received?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

In an article in the April number of the *Contemporary Review* Sir Robert Laidlaw suggests the establishment of an International Parliament, with judicial, legislative and administrative functions, in which all nations would be represented. Each State would only be allowed to maintain sufficient armed force for police purposes and to deal with turbulent and uncivilised races, and unitedly to enforce the decrees of the Tribunal. The scale of armaments to be fixed on the basis of population for army and length of coast-line for navy; say 100 soldiers to the million of inhabitants, with a minimum of 500, and one ship for every thousand miles of coast-line, with a minimum of two, countries of less than 500 miles coast-line to have the option of keeping none.

On this basis the scale would be:—

	Soldiers.	Ships.
British Empire ...	45,000 ...	56
China	40,000 ...	5
Russia	16,400 ...	18
United States ...	10,200 ...	31
France	9,800 ...	12
Germany	8,000 ...	9
Japan	6,500 ...	11
Austria-Hungary	5,000 ...	1
Holland	4,400 ...	14
Italy	4,300 ...	7
Brazil	2,300 ...	5
Spain	2,000 ...	2
Turkey	2,000 ...	6
Mexico	1,600 ...	6
Portugal	1,500 ...	3
Persia	1,000 ...	2

With a number of smaller Nations this would give a world army of 177,500 units and a navy of 249 craft. Experts would have no difficulty in arranging suitable proportions of arms and the proper adjustment of seacraft. Aircraft could be regulated on a similar basis.

The following Resolutions are to be discussed at the Women's Peace Congress at the Hague, on April 28th, 29th, 30th:—

(1) Plea for Definition of Terms of Peace.

Considering that the people in each of the countries now at war believe themselves to be fighting, not as aggressors but in self-defence and for their national existence, this International Congress of Women urges the Governments of the belligerent countries, publicly to define the terms, on which they are willing to make peace and for this purpose immediately to call a truce.

(2) Arbitration and Conciliation.

This International Congress of Women, believing that war is the negation of all progress and civilisation, declares its conviction that future international disputes should be referred to arbitration or conciliation; and demands that in future these methods shall be adopted by the Governments of all Nations.

(3) International Pressure.

This International Congress of Women urges the Powers to come to an agreement to unite in bringing pressure to bear upon any country which resorts to arms without having referred its case to arbitration or conciliation.

(4) Democratic Control of Foreign Policy.

War is brought about not by the peoples of the world, who do not desire it, but by groups of individuals representing particular interests. This International Congress of Women demands, therefore, that Foreign Politics shall be subject to Democratic Control; and at the same time declares that it can only recognise as democratic a system which includes the equal representation of men and women.

(5) Transference of Territory.

This International Congress of Women affirms that there should be no transference of territory without the consent of the men and women in it.

WAR IN ITS RELATION TO WOMEN.

(1) Protest.

War, the *ultima ratio* of the statesmanship of men, we women declare to be a madness, possible only to a people intoxicated by a false idea; for it destroys everything the constructive powers of humanity have taken centuries to build up.

(2) Women's Responsibility.

This International Women's Congress is convinced that one of the strongest forces for the prevention of war will be the combined influence of the women of all countries, and that, therefore, upon women as well as men, rests the responsibility for the outbreak of future wars. But as women can only make their influence effective if they have equal political rights with men, this Congress declares that it is the duty of all women to work with all their force for their political enfranchisement.

(3) Women's Sufferings in War.

This International Congress of Women protests against the assertion that war means the protection of women. Not forgetting their sufferings as wives, mothers and sisters, it emphasises the fact that the moral and physical sufferings of many women are beyond description, and are often of such a nature that by the tacit consent of men the least possible is reported. Women raise their voices in commiseration with those women wounded in their deepest sense of womanhood, and powerless to defend themselves.

(4) Women Delegates in the Conference of the Powers.

Believing that it is essential for the future peace of the world that representatives of the people should take part in the Conference of the Powers after the war, this International Women's Congress urges, that among the representatives women delegates should be included.

(5) Women Suffrage Resolution.

This International Women's Congress urges, that in the interests of civilisation the Conference of the Powers after the war should pass a resolution affirming the need in all countries of extending the parliamentary franchise to women.

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(1) Promotion of Good Feeling between Nations.

This International Congress of Women, which in itself is evidence of the serious desire of women to bring together mankind in the work of building up our common civilisation, considers that every means should be used for promoting mutual understanding and goodwill between the nations, and for resisting any tendency to hatred and revenge.

(2) Education of Children.

Realising that for the prevention of the possibility of a future war, each individual should be convinced of the inadmissibility of deciding disputes by force of arms, this International Congress of Women urges the necessity of so directing the education of children, that their thoughts and desires may be turned towards the maintenance of peace, and that they may be given a moral education so as to enable them in any eventuality to act on this conviction.

The following new resolution will be proposed by the British Committee:

That this International Congress of Women urges the Governments of all Powers to take the manufacture and control of armaments entirely out of private hands, as a step towards complete and final disarmament.

OUR AT HOME.

On Friday, April 23rd, at the beginning of Self Denial week, the E. L. F. S. will give an At Home at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., there will be speeches and music, and dancing after 9.30 p.m. Friends who wish to attend our At Home should write to us for tickets. Members do not need tickets as they will be the hostesses.

CHINA'S FIGHT FOR EXISTENCE.

But a few years ago we heard that China had burst, suddenly, as it seemed, into revolution; that she had cast off alien rulers and age-long superstitions and conventions: that the men of China had cut off their pig-tails; that the women had unbound their feet and were escaping from subjection, and that some of them, though perhaps this was a western fable, had rushed into the legislative chamber and demanded Votes. In this country great admiration was expressed for the revolutionaries, and, for once, China became quite popular here. Now we learn that Japan, our ally, is menacing the freedom of China. China is struggling to retain her freedom by means of a commercial boycott of Japanese goods.

Some of the British newspapers have discussed the question of the Japanese demands on China, but most of them appear to have done so merely from the standpoint of British commercial interests, ignoring altogether the essential question as to how China herself is to be affected. The *New Statesman* devotes a long article to the matter, adopting unfortunately the purely selfish views of the oldest fashioned statesmen. It congratulates itself that as the alliance with Britain is vital to Japan, she cannot act without consulting British interests and cheerfully concludes that by a "virtual Japanese protectorate" "the independence of the Chinese Empire as such will be curtailed, but the independence of the Yellow Races in relation to the rest of the world will be enhanced."

Would England then be satisfied to enhance the independence of the English speaking peoples by handing over her independence to America?

Visitors to Japan speak of her as a land of flowers, of art for art's sake, and happy chidren, into which western commercialism is beginning to penetrate with all its worst features, including the employment of children in steam driven factories.

Would that we by our experience could save Japan from falling into the errors from which we are beginning to try with much difficulty to rid ourselves, both in regard to greedy commercialism and dominance over peoples who are unable to defend themselves.

If Japan goes her way unchecked and succeeds in her plans for the subjection of China, she will be laying the foundations of a war that may come soon or late, but will come assuredly (unless some other means of settling international disputes has been adopted before then) for it is certain that China, like all other peoples, will rise up to fight for her freedom as soon as she is able. Present events are showing us that we cannot confidently assume that a war between countries, even so far away as China and Japan, might not involve the great European nations as this present War has done.

The Chinese-Japanese situation and the way in which it is treated by our party newspapers is of ill omen for future peace and the future conduct of international affairs.

Dr. Garrett Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray have been appointed officers in charge of the military hospital at Endell Street, W.C., which is to be opened towards the end of April.

These two medical women were recognised by the French Government at the beginning of the War, and they managed the hospitals at Claridge's Hotel, Paris, and at Wimereau, Boulogne, for some months. We are glad that the British Government has at last put aside its prejudices, and though with ungraciousness, agrees to make use of the valuable services of these eminent doctors.

The Licensed Victuallers' Defence League are calling for rebates in taxation by way of compensation for their loss of trade. Will the Government reply to them, as to working women who ask that food prices shall be kept down: "you must remember we are at war and that all must make sacrifices?"

BIGAMY NO CRIME!

The other day Corporal Simpkins, of the Scotch Guards, was charged with bigamy before Sir Forest Fulton. Although he had already a wife and children he had made love to a young servant girl, and after writing her 150 letters had married her. He had lived with her for a month, at the end of which time the facts became known, because the new wife wrote to the War Office for her separation allowance.

The case was very briefly disposed of. Corporal Simpkins was merely asked "do you plead guilty?" and on his replying in the affirmative, without a word of rebuke, or a witness being called, he was awarded one day's imprisonment, which meant that he was able to leave a free man, the time that he had spent in court being counted as a day. As he came out of court, without a word to the heart-broken woman he had injured, he met a woman whom he knew, and said to her: "I told you I'd get off! Now I'm going to have a drink."

It seems that women must expect little legal protection whilst England is at War!

TAKING THE MAN'S PLACE.

Too often the view is held that women must be feared as blacklegs, rather than welcomed as comrades eager to preserve the hard won safeguards of labour. It is cheering to note that the Ramsbottom Weavers' Association has appointed two women to its committee in place of two men who have gone to the War. Women have never before served on this committee.

THE NURSE'S STATUS.

The *Saturday Review*, in an article on "Women in War Time," adopts a pompously sneering tone towards the efforts of women to make themselves useful, but shows itself grossly ignorant in matters of fact. It says: "They were a little disillusioned by the reluctance of the War Office, which, being overwhelmed with applications from thousands who knew nothing about the work, was not disposed to see its own trained nurses swamped by the untrained. It was evident that the story of the South African War was not to be repeated. Nursing classes were arranged, so that the rudiments of the work could be imparted."

As a matter of fact, there has been much "disillusionment" amongst many women because the War Office has allowed the trained nurse to be "swamped" by the amateur, who will work without pay, and because people to whom only the "rudiments of the work would be imparted" in a few weeks', or even days', training, have been sent out to the front, whilst trained nurses, who have offered their services, have been ignored. Women, who have attended the nursing classes referred to, passed the examinations connected with them and been certified as efficient, declare that the instruction is far too rudimentary to be of use. The *Saturday Review* points out that nursing "is a skilled profession." We may add that in war time it is a dangerous one. The War Office scarcely realised this when it docked the nurses' salaries by half!

The Government is asking civil hospitals to give a three or six months training to as many "war" probationers as possible. No suggestion is offered as to the future of these hastily trained nurses, and it is feared that after the war their presence will lower the standard of the nursing profession. If further training after the war were guaranteed, and if the much needed municipal hospitals and sanitoria were started all over the country, the increase of nurses which the Government is asking for could be absorbed, and the hospitals would be less distrustful of the present proposals.

St. George's Guardians have decided to pay 1s. 6d. a week more to the washers and scrubbers in the infirmary, on condition that the Local Government Board will allow the increase to be a charge upon the Common Poor Fund.

CLOSING DOWN THE FUND.

She was a little, plain old maid: neither pretty, nor graceful, nor romantic. There was no least trace of beauty in her dress, but much of careful respectability: the drab coat, worn mended old black gloves, and stiff hard commonplace black hat.

Her face was flushed. She came in trembling, flinching at every word and look. Kindness might hurt her more even than brutal rudeness, for, in her distress and agitation, a word of sympathy might destroy her hard held self-control.

We kept at first to formal questioning and answers. She gave her name and her age, 57. For 40 years she had earned her living by making men's ties and silk belts. At one time she had been a forewoman over 20 girls. Then her eyesight had begun to fail. She explained: "But for my sight I am as well able to work as any of the younger ones. In fact better. I often had bad health when I was young; I haven't now." A year before the War she had opened a confectioner's shop. She had bought the business for £40, all that she had saved in her 40 years of hard work. The shop had done very well—it was opposite the —— Gardens, and the young people who went there used to come in to her for refreshments. She made from 18s. to £1 a week on the average—"enough to live on"—and from 30s. to 35s. in the summer. "I had a splendid business in ice cream," she said.

"Then the War came—'just as the best of the ice cream season was beginning.' "The —— Gardens were closed. Between six and seven hundred railway men—'my best customers'—left the district. They were told that they must either enlist or be put on half time." For a week she could get no sugar. Prices went up so that she was afraid to buy the materials for her trade. She had no capital to fall back on. The prospect of debt and ruin stared her in the face, and so, filled with the bitterest disappointment, she decided to close her shop.

She went to the library of a provident society, to which she had belonged in her youth, to look at the advertisements of situations in the newspapers, and there she asked advice. The clerk told her that she ought to go to the Prince of Wales's Fund Committee in her district.

She went to the Committee and asked for work. They said they could not give her work—only money. "I wouldn't take it at first," she said, "I had sold my tea-urn and other things, and I lived on that money for a bit—but I had to come to it."

For the first month the Committee allowed her 3s. 6d. a week. Then the Government scale was announced, and in accordance with it she got 10s. a week.

Ever since War broke out she has tried unceasingly to find employment, but without success. "It's my age that's against me," she said, "though, but for my eyes, I can do as much work as any of the younger ones, and I'm good in a shop. I'm a very good reckoner. I suppose I've been to hundreds of places, and I couldn't pay to ride, so I had to tramp. They won't have me in service because of my age. I've tried that, though I'm not domesticated, I can't pretend I am, for I've always had to work outside, and I don't want to part with my home. I've tried after many caretakers' places, but they generally want someone with a small income, who just wants to live rent free. At a place I went to yesterday they said: 'you couldn't scrub out a pair of schools.' But I'd do anything if I could get it," she said. Her voice trembled and her face was quivering.

Last week the Committee cut her allowance down to 5s. a week. "I pay 3s. 6d. for rent and gas so you can see what it means," she said. The Committee had told her that the relief will soon be stopped altogether, as they are closing down the fund. The Committee have made her feel that they believe she closed her shop in order to get on the Fund,—"to live in one room on 10s.; to take relief after keeping myself for 40 years, and never going to anyone for a sixpence!" She spoke with the utmost bitterness. Her eyes filled with tears, and she could hardly keep from sobbing. Five other confectioners she said had been shut in the same road since War began. One near to her had kept open till Christmas, and then the owners had closed their doors owing £500. "I came out of it without owing a penny to anyone," she said. "I wouldn't keep on and involve other people."

I showed her the Board of Trade form of registration for War Service. "I'd be willing to work on the land," she said, "if they think I could do it. I'd be willing to be trained if they'd train me, but I don't think they'd want to train anyone of my age."

She tried to pull herself together and face the future. "I suppose I shall have to sell all I've got—things I've had since I was about 20," she said, and there was fear in her voice, for those little precious things of hers would realise so little, and the money would last so short a time.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND—Norman Blanchard, Esq. 5.0.0, Collection M.P.U. Meeting, Highbury Hall, 1.5.6, Collection Bow Baths, 10.1, Miss Brackenbury 10.0, Collection at Miss Buckley's entertainment 6.6, Mrs. Williams 5.8, Tom Norris, Esq. (monthly) 5.0, Miss H. Armes 2.6, Miss M. Smith 2.6, Per Mrs. Saxby 1.0, Mr. Rasmussen 1.0, Collection Hackney 0.7.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Mrs. LeLacheur 12.10.0, Miss M. Wellington 5.0.0, Mrs. Guiterman 3.0.0, Mrs. J. Lawrence 2.0.0, Louis P. Jacobs, Esq. 1.1.0, Mrs. Chesley 1.0.0, E. F. Errington, Esq. 1.0.0, Miss Ewart 1.0.0, Miss Bessie Tilby 1.0.0, Miss Gertrude Halsey 1.0.0, Mrs. Gordon 1.0.0, W. Bedford, Esq., 1.0.0, A. Gliksten, Esq. (monthly) 1.0.0, Colonel Major 1.0.0, Mrs. Binnie 10.0 (monthly) 1.0.0, Miss A. I. Benson 15.0, J.A. Fallows, Esq., M.A. 15.0, per Dr. Tchaykovsky 15.0, Miss N. Needham and friends 10.6, Messrs. Jas. Smith and Sons 10.2, Mrs. Foster 10.0, Mrs. E. Pelham 10.0, Miss F. Stevens 10.0, Miss Walters 10.0, Mrs. E. Ross 10.0, W. B. Downey, Esq. 10.0, Anon, per *Daily News* 10.0, Miss Finke 10.0, Anon, Hornsey (weekly) 10.0, "A Cornish Girl" 5.0, Anon, per *Daily Mirror* 5.0, Mrs. Monkman 5.0, Miss L. Barker 5.0, Miss E. Braddy 5.0, Miss M. Sheppard 5.0, Miss E. M. Lloyd 5.0, E. G. Phipps, Esq. 5.0, Miss I. Jones (fortnightly) 4.0, Mrs. H. Bonsell 3.0, Miss M. Smith 2.6, W. R. Welborn, Esq. 2.6, Miss M. Crouch 2.6, Miss M. Cann 2.6, Miss Larden 2.6, Anon, Aberystwyth 2.6, Miss V. Pengelly 2.0, "Father and Mother of two" 2.0, Mr. and Mrs. Hodge 1.6, Mrs. Saxby 1.0, Miss Lines 1.0, Mrs. Appleton 1.0, Mrs. Powles (weekly) 1.0, "Manchester Mac" 1.0, Mrs. and Miss Stevens (monthly) 1.0, Mr. and Mrs. Emson 1.0, J. E. Wilkinson 0.10, Miss Fedden 0.6.

COLLECTIONS. Miss K. Evans' At Home 1.10.0, Mrs. McCheyne 7.3, Mrs. Crabb 5.9½, Brotherhood Church 1.3.

SUBSCRIBERS TO THE £1 FUND.

Collected by Mrs. Fox Strangways.

	Weekly.	s.	d.
Mrs. Selbie	6d.	paid 6	0
,, Houlding	6d.	,, 6	0
Miss Baston	6d.	,, 6	0
Mrs. Mayne Smith	6d.	,, 6	0
,, Oldham	6d.	,, 6	0
,, Curtis (London)	6d.	,, 6	0
Miss Phillips (London)	6d.		
Mrs. Mulvaney	6d.	,, 1	0
,, Warwick-Crouch	6d.	,, 1	0
,, Elkin Matthews	6d.	,, 1	0
,, Fox Strangways	6d.	,, 1	0
,, Bradley	1d.	,, 1	0
Through Mrs. Long.			
Mr. Deane	6d.	,, 6	0
Mrs. Deane	6d.	,, 6	0
,, Aff	1½d.	,, 0	6
Mr. Dalton	1½d.	,, 1	6
Mrs. DeLacey	2½d.	,, 2	6
,, Field	1½d.		
,, Rogers	1½d.	,, 0	6
,, Barrett	1½d.	,, 0	6
,, Toop	1½d.	,, 0	1½
Collected by Mrs. Varcoe.			
Mrs. Mackenzie	6d.		
Miss Mackenzie	6d.		
Mrs. Clough	6d.		
,, Varcoe	6d.	,, 6	0
Collected by Mrs. Hobling.			
Mrs. Hobling	6d.		
Anon	6d.		
Anon	6d.		
Collected by Mrs. Biddle.			
Mrs. Bibble	6d.	,, 1	0
Miss Weir	6d.	,, 1	0
Mrs. Sheill	6d.		
Collected by Mrs. Harben.			
Mr. Bird	6d.	,, 6	0
Mrs. Morten	6d.	,, 6	0
,, Stedall	6d.	,, 12	0
Miss Stedall	6d.	,, 6	0
Mrs. Aldred	6d.	,, 18	0
Miss Chichester	6d.	,, 6	0
Mrs. Gordon	6d.	,, 8	6

CLOTHES, ETC. Mrs. Trevelyan, Miss K. E. Broadhurst, Mrs. Hargreaves, Miss Tagart, Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, Mrs. Barnes, Spring and District Benevolent Society, Mrs. Lamartine Yates, Lady Busk, Miss Gwen A. Richard, Nurse Godwin, Miss Gertrude Halsey, Miss Edith Evans.

CHEESE, GROCERIES, ETC. Miss Constance Bear.

MELLIN'S FOOD. The Manager, Mellin's Food.

Who is to blame for the strikes for increased wages? The Government which refuses to prohibit gambling in the people's food.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

A very successful and well attended meeting was held on Tuesday the 23rd. An enthusiastic audience listened to our speakers in Bow Baths on Sunday.

Owing to the Easter holidays there will be no meetings from Good Friday till April 12th, when our usual meetings every Tuesday afternoon and Sunday evening in the Women's Hall will be resumed. Members and friends are also reminded that the Suffrage Club will be held every Friday at 8.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Mar. 27, 274. Mrs. Pascoe 59.

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:
Mrs. McCheyne & Mrs. Mantle,
53 St. Leonard Street.

Monthly subscriptions are now overdue. Will all who have not paid please do so as as soon as possible?

Miss Feek gave an interesting address on Tuesday evening which was largely attended. We are anxious to sell more *Dreadnoughts* so will anyone take a regular pitch for an hour once a week?

POPLAR.

The Women's Hall, 20 Railway St.
Organiser: Mrs. Drake.

Miss Feek spoke Tuesday evening; Mrs. Cressall at Chrisp Street on Wednesday. Mrs. Scurr came again on Friday.

Members of Suffrage club are reminded that we have a library at which books may be borrowed at a fee of 4d. a fortnight. Mrs. Schlette is in charge. We shall be pleased to welcome some new members to this, and also to the choir practice on Wednesday. We shall be pleased to receive subscriptions to assist us with our piano—Nurse Conolly gave 2s. 6d.

Our sale of clothes will be held on Tuesday this week at 6.30, and anybody is welcome. It is usually held on Mondays, but is altered this week owing to holidays.

Will those coming for babies' milk come between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Restaurant closed on Friday, Saturday and Monday. Open on Tuesday as usual.

Dreadnoughts sold, week ending Mar. 27—146.

Collected — Mrs. Bird 8s. 5d.; Mrs. Neuss 4s. 5d.; Mrs. Drake 2s. 10d.; Miss Lagsding 1s. 5d.; A working man 1s. 6d.

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 Dalston Lane
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).

Will members please note that papers can always be obtained from Mr. Parker, 175 Dalston Lane on Saturday morning, or any time during the week. We want paper sellers and distributors in this district. Who will volunteer?

Please make a point of bringing at least two friends with you to every meeting, and take at least two papers to give to your neighbours every week. Back numbers of the paper can be had on application to give away.

We wish all our members a "happy holiday," and hope that they will return to work harder than ever for the cause.

Dreadnoughts sold 12.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—
55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Daisy Parsons,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

The sale this week realized 16s., and was postponed from Tuesday till Wednesday. On Thursday Mrs. Bouvier spoke and four new members joined. Now members, please pay up subscriptions promptly as there is no time for all this extra running about. Our sympathy to all members who have sick children or husbands ill, and hope they will soon be free to attend the meetings again. Our monthly Social was a great success and all are heartily thanked who helped Miss Millo and Miss Manicom. Thanks are also extended to Mr. Watts, of Bow, who ably carried out duties of M.C., and Mr. Ben Hooper, who got a good pianist, and also helped in various other ways. We have to thank Miss Marie Brackenbury for gift of a picture for shop, and Mrs. Stephens for wicker chair and fender. We are sorry she has gone from the district and hope to see her occasionally.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: Mr. H. G. Everett.
c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

Meeting in Highbury Hall, March 26th, was a great success. Hall was packed and audience sympathetic. The following resolution was carried with only one dissentient: "That this meeting of the North London branch of the Men's Political Union for Women's Enfranchisement, seeing that the Government professes to believe in justice and honour, calls upon them to prove their sincerity by passing into law this session a measure enfranchising women on the same terms as men."

Copies of this resolution are being forwarded to the Prime Minister and the local M.P. Thanks to those who helped to make the meeting a success.

The Alliance and Dublin Consumers Gas Co. has made a profit of £43,867 during the last half year. A year ago the profit was £24,027. "We must all make war sacrifices!"

The chief constable of Southampton is advertising for two policewomen at a salary of 27s. a week, rising to 37s.

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

For Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

Many grievances of League members have been taken up with the War Office, and success has been secured in a number of cases. In one case a man had been refused a £5 bounty, as he was unable to present himself on the day named because of his wife's illness. The League has secured the payment of this bounty to him.

A flourishing new branch of the League has been formed at Nine Elms.

The East Ham branch will hold a public meeting at Essex Hall, Wakefield Street, East Ham, on April 14th. Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Thompson.

West Ham branch meets regularly on Monday evenings, 8 p.m., at 55 Fife Road. Hon. Sec., Mrs. Millo.

Poplar branch on Mondays, at 8 p.m., at 20 Railway Street, Poplar. Hon. Secretary, Miss Mustard.

MORE AMERICAN VICTORIES.

The South Dakota Legislature has passed a Votes for Women amendment, and the question will be submitted to the voters next year.

In the Texas Legislature Votes for Women has been carried by 90 votes to 32, but it cannot be submitted to the people until a two-thirds' majority has been secured.

In Kansas, where women vote, the Legislature has passed a "Baby Bill," for which the women have been agitating. This Bill creates a bureau of child hygiene.

In Wyoming State, where women also vote, the Federation of Women's Clubs has induced the Governor to sign a Bill to provide money for the State University. A deputation of the President of the University and the President of the University Board of Trustees, representing the alumni, and of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, waited on the Governor, who told them that he had laid the Bill aside for consideration. After some time, as the *Wyoming Student* reports, he "refused to listen to any further arguments of the gentlemen, as he had already made up his mind as to what he would do—that he would do the best he could for the University, but that he must consider things from a business standpoint;" then the women spoke.

The *Wyoming Student* continues:—"The wide-awake president of the Women's Federation said that about all she could do was to offer the Governor her sympathy. The next (woman) speaker, as on all previous occasions, carried winning colours. She expressed her views frankly; she told how much the University had meant to her; how it had helped her; how she had had experience in a business way, and how she knew how to save and to invest money. She said that she thought that her best investments were made along idealistic lines, such as for good books, music and travel. And she concluded that to her the University was an idealistic possession of the State, and that if the State indulged itself the business gains would be threefold.

"The Governor was pleased with the remarks, and said that the women had said the only sensible things that he had heard, and that for them (and not in the least on account of what the men had said) he was going to sign the Bill."

A Trade Union Women's Suffrage League has been organised in New York City.

EXTRACT from L.C.C. HANDBOOK.

"Absence owing to confinement.

224.—(*a*) Teachers must notify the Council of the expected date of their confinement at least three months before that date.

(*b*) Teachers absent owing to confinement are required to absent themselves from school for at least four weeks before the notified date, and to remain absent for not less than 13 weeks after their confinement; or, in the event of the child not living, for a period to be determined after consultation with the School Medical Officer, provided that such period be not less than four weeks. During the period of absence full pay is allowed for the first eight weeks and half-pay for the remaining nine weeks. In all cases in which the child lives an absence of 17 weeks is compulsory. Leave of absence beyond this period may be granted without pay to a maximum period of twelve months.

(*c*) The Council provides substitutes for teachers who are absent under this regulation."

Miss Honor Morton, who was a member of the London School Board, was responsible for the above regulation.

A CONTRAST AND A CAUTION.

By Mrs. MANSELL-MOULLIN.

February 16th, 1909 ought never to be forgotten, for on it was seen one of the saddest sights which even this sad London has witnessed.

It was a time of great distress, and thinking it well to bring this to the notice of the authorities and to the comfortable and luxurious people in the West End, a procession of unemployed women and the wives of unemployed men was arranged. They came from all parts of East and South London and met in Cavendish Square, to march from there to Westminster.

There were thousands of women whose ragged clothing scarcely covered them, and was no protection from the biting east wind. They were accompanied by numbers of little babies and children, many of whom were shoeless and hatless.

The poor little ones were eagerly excited as they had been promised a tea at the Horticultural Hall, Westminster, and it was pitiful to hear them asking all along the weary march, "Please Miss, when will my tea come?" "Please teacher, I'm so hungry."

I walked all the way with them, and because the huge procession was so constantly stopped for the traffic, it was possible to walk up and down the lines and talk to many of the women. Most of them had had no meal that day and many of the children had only had a potato on the previous day; all looked pinched and starving, and many fainted and fell out of the ranks before we had walked half the distance.

As we went down Park Lane the band played the "Dead March in Saul." I was talking to a woman about nothing more revolutionary than her baby's cough, when she suddenly looked up and said "Do you hear that? It's the 'Dead March' and they're playing it because we are dying every day, the babies are dying, and the little children are dying from starvation!" and then her poor pinched face lighted up—I shall never forget her expression—and she said: "Never mind, better days are coming, we shall have food and we shall have work, when the good ladies have got the Vote!"

Remember, this remark was most unexpected, as this procession had nothing to do with the Suffrage Societies. All through the long and arduous days that have followed, this woman's face and her faith have been an inspiration.

This procession of women, asking only for the *Right to Work*, so that they and their children might have a human life in the richest country in the world, was not allowed to reach the so-called People's House. It was met at Grosvenor Gardens by a cordon of police and scattered.

On June 17th, 1911, another vast procession marched through the streets of London, this was the memorable Coronation Suffrage Procession, seven miles in length, representing women of every walk in life. There were graduates of universities who had fought for long years for the right to be educated, who even now are denied degrees at Oxford and Cambridge; barristers who are not allowed to practice in our law courts; doctors who are still shut out from all the leading hospitals in London, nurses, teachers, clerks, artists, actresses, shop and factory hands, sweated workers and many others—all united in demanding freedom from age-long shackels and to be recognised as human beings with the rights of citizenship, so that they might better serve their country, instead of being classed with infants, criminals and lunatics. On looking back to that day it seems unbelievable that our most reasonable demand was not granted at once.

Those who had marched in previous suffrage processions were struck on that day with the changed attitude of the man in the street. We heard no more the old worn-out gibes: "Woman cannot Vote because she cannot fight," "Go 'ome and mind the biby," "Who'll cook my dinner?" with which we had been so familiar in the early days. The man in the street understood at last, the women had converted him and these remarks were confined to brainless, parasitic men and women, and to our wooden-headed legislators at Westminster.

And now in 1915, this saddest of all years, we see yet another procession marching daily through London's sad streets. It is composed of khaki clad men who have answered their country's call to fight, as they believe, for freedom and humanity.

And what about the women? Has every sex barrier been thrown down in this crisis? Has every door been thrown open to them, so that they too may serve their country? No, indeed! for all the power and honours and titles and best paid professions are still kept by the men; but an urgent appeal has been sent out to women to leave their homes (the home they have so often been told is the right place for them to remain in!) and to come out at once and fill some of the places men have left vacant; and they are to do this without being granted the elementary right of citizenship, without any voice in the framing of the laws of the land, so that they have no certainty at all that if they do equal work with men they will receive equal pay.

We welcome this appeal and women are gladly answering the call to save their country, for deep down in every true woman's soul is a longing to serve, and for years past we have known that we women are capable of filling all these offices and our country is as dear to us as it is to the men; but I must beseech you, dear fellow women, do not let the agony of the present time cloud your vision of the future.

Woman must be *free*—morally, physically, economically free to work out her own life in her own way. She cannot be used simply to fill a gap, and then when no longer needed, thrown on the scrap-heap, for, we know that those who cry "Hosanna" to-day will cry "Crucify" to-morrow!

We Suffragettes are the custodians of the women of the future, and it is our work to safeguard their interests, and we shall be traitors indeed to the faith that is in us unless we keep the Suffrage flag flying without ceasing all through these terrible days.

We must not think for one moment that our cause is won because women are allowed to work now in ways hitherto closed to them. We have heard of the devil's sick-bed repentance and know what to expect when he gets well!

Our demand for the Vote must be heard even above the clash of arms, and the sobbing of the bereaved and broken hearted, for to us has been given the Great Ideal; we know that the free woman, with full power to make the best use of her talents, will be able to build up a better, saner race, which will be worthy of all the present sacrifice.

So, dear friends, let us take courage, work on and keep the flag flying, for behind the livid, lowering sky, there is the sun somewhere, behind all the evil of the world there is always God.

On the evening of March 25th, the "Despard Arms," a new reform public-house, at 50 Cumberland Market, Albany Street, S.W., was opened by the Women's Freedom League. Food and non-alcoholic drinks are to be sold at reasonable prices. Games and newspapers will be provided, and entertainments given from time to time.

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